

## WHAT IS CLAIMED IS:

Sub (1)

1. A holder for assisting in holding a paint container, comprising:

5 a sleeve adapted to receive a thumb of a hand; and  
a retainer connected to said sleeve adapted to retain a handle of a paint container and allow a weight of the paint container to be transferred to a remainder of the hand supporting at a bottom of the paint container.

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2. A holder as set forth in claim 1 wherein said sleeve is generally cylindrical in shape.

3. A holder as set forth in claim 1 wherein said  
15 sleeve is generally tubular in shape.

4. A holder as set forth in claim 1 wherein said sleeve extends longitudinally to form a hollow interior.

20 5. A holder as set forth in claim 4 wherein said sleeve has at least one open end adapted to allow the thumb of the hand to extend into said hollow interior.

6. A holder as set in claim 1 wherein said sleeve  
25 is made from a rigid material.

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7. A holder as set forth in claim 1 wherein said sleeve is made of a flexible material.

8. A holder as set forth in claim 7 wherein said sleeve is made from a strip of material extending longitudinally.

9. A holder as set forth in claim 1 including a fastener for fastening longitudinal ends of said strip of material together to form said sleeve.

10. A holder as set forth in claim 1 wherein said retainer has a general "U" shape.

11. A holder as set forth in claim 1 wherein said retainer is made of a spring material.

Sub A27 12. A holder as set forth in claim 1 wherein said retainer has a first end and a second end to form a hollow interior.

13. A holder as set forth in claim 11 wherein said first end is connected to said sleeve and said second end is movable relative to said first end.

14. A holder for assisting in holding a paint container, comprising:

a sleeve extending longitudinally to form a hollow interior with at least one open end adapted to receive a thumb  
5 of a hand; and

a retainer connected to said sleeve and adapted to retain a handle of a paint container and allow a weight of the paint container to be transferred to a remainder of the hand supporting a bottom of the paint container.

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15. A holder as set forth in claim 14 wherein said sleeve is generally cylindrical in shape.

16. A holder as set forth in claim 14 wherein said  
15 sleeve is made of a rigid material.

17. A holder as set forth in claim 14 wherein said sleeve is made of a flexible material.

20 18. A holder as set forth in claim 14 wherein said sleeve is made from a strip of material extending longitudinally.

19. A holder as set forth in claim 14 wherein said  
25 retainer has a general "U" shape.

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20. A holder as set forth in claim 14 wherein said retainer is made of a spring material.

21. A holder as set forth in claim 14 wherein said  
5 retainer has a first end and a second end to form a hollow interior.

*Sub A37* 22. A holder as set forth in claim 21 wherein said  
first end is connected to said sleeve and said second end is  
10 movable relative to said first end.

23. A holder comprising:  
a sleeve made of a flexible material having a wall  
extending longitudinally to form a hollow interior with at  
15 least one open end adapted to receive a thumb of a hand; and  
a retainer made of a spring material connected to  
said wall of said sleeve and adapted to retain a handle of a  
paint container and allow a weight of the paint container to  
be transferred to a remainder of the hand supporting a bottom  
20 of the paint container.

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